GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2962
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2016
Wi-Fi at Public Places
Chudasama Shri Rajeshbhai Naranbhai;Gaikwad Dr. Sunil Baliram;Kaushik Shri Ramesh Chander;Kothapalli Smt. Geetha;Maragatham Smt. K.;Premachandran Shri N.K.;Radhakrishnan Shri T.;S.R. Shri Vijay Kumar;Singh Shri Kunwar Haribansh

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide infrastructure facility for Wi-Fi connection in the premises of monuments and places of pilgrimage in all important cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the places already provided with such facilities, State-wise;

(c) whether the telecom regulator has proposed a consultation paper for boosting broadband availability through Wi-Fi in public places and if so, the details thereof and the response of the telecom operators in this regard;

(d) whether globally the number of Wi-Fi hotspots surged more than six fold within the three years preceding 2016, while the increase in India has been only 12%; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor along with the corrective measures taken/being taken by the Government in this regard along with the policy framework and regulatory foundation laid down for the purpose?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS &
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI MANOJ SINHA)

(a) & (b) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) had to provide Wi-Fi facility in 21 tourist places and historical monuments across the country, identified by the Ministry of Tourism and the Archeological Survey of India. All 21 places have been provided with the wi-fi facility. The list of the places where Wi-Fi facility has been provided by the BSNL is placed at Annexure.

(c) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has released a Consultation Paper on 'Proliferation of Broadband through Public Wi-Fi Networks' on 13th July, 2016. Stakeholders have been requested to submit their comments and counter comments by 10th August, 2016 and 24th August, 2016 respectively.

(d) As mentioned in the Consultation Paper, globally the increase in number of Wi-Fi hotspots from 2013 to 2016 has been 568%, whereas India has seen an increase of 12% only (as per 'iPass Wi-Fi Growth Map').

(e) The reasons for the low progress of Wi-Fi hotspots in India shall be known after the conclusion of the consultation process initiated by the TRAI.

Annexure

Status of Wi-Fi facility provided by BSNL at Tourist Sites/Adarsh Smaraks
<pre>
Sl. No. Location Status
1 Ramakrishna Beach, Vizag, Andhra Pradesh Provided
2 Lal Bagh, Bangalore, Karnataka Provided
3 Brindavan Gardens, Mysore, Karnataka Provided
4 Cubbon Park, Karnataka Provided
5 Guruvayur Temple, Kerala Provided
6 Upper Lake, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh Provided
7 Orchcha Temple, Madhya Pradesh Provided
8 Boulevard, Pondicherry, Tamil Nadu Provided
9 Meenakshi Temple, Madurai, Tamil Nadu Provided
10 Botanical Garden, Ooty, Tamil Nadu Provided
11 Hussein Sagar Lake, Hyderabad Provided
12 Jagannath Temple, Puri, Odisha Provided
13 Har Ki Pauri, Haridwar, Uttarakhand Provided
14 Brihadeeswarar Temple, Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu Provided
15 Hampi, Karnataka Provided

16 Taj Mahal, Agra, Uttar Pradesh Provided
17 FatehpurSikri, Agra, Uttar Pradesh Provided
18 Sarnath Temple, Uttar Pradesh Provided
19 Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh Provided
20 Konark Temple, Odisha Provided
21 Shore Temple, Mahabali puram, Tamil Nadu Provided
</pre>
****